

The specification has been amended to overcome the rejection to claim 7 and 8 under 35USC112.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35USC102(b) as ?? by Kimock, et al. Applicants respectfully disagree. The examiner points to Column 7, line 50 of Kimock, et al which teaches

"Most preferably, interlayer 2 is composed of siliconoxy-nitride. In no case would the low friction layer 3 and the interlayer 2 which is bonded directly to low function layer 3 be chosen from the same material."

Figure 1 of Kimock et al shows interlayer 2 on substrate 1 with low friction layer 3 on top of interlayer 2. Col. 4, lines 63-65, refers to "a first interlayer 2 (or adhesion mediating layer)". Thus Kimock et al. teaches away from applicants invention. Kimock teaches siliconoxy-nitride as an adhesion mediating interlayer, not as an outer layer or an outer layer exposed to environmental wear as claimed by applicants. Kimock et al. teaches at Co.3, lines 2-7, "this invention provides a coated substrate product within superior abrasion wear resistance and reduced chemical reactivity". More particularly, this invention provides a coating of low-friction diamond-like carbon.....". Kimock et al. provides no teaching of the suitability of siliconoxynitride for abrasion and wear resistance and reduced chemical activity which is an external layer. In view thereof withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the changes to the claims and the remarks herein, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the above-identified application. If the Examiner wishes to discuss the application further, or if additional information would be required, the undersigned will cooperate fully to assist in the prosecution of this application.

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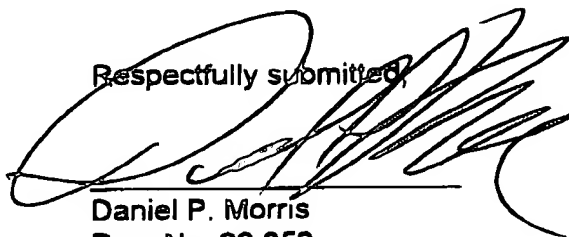
If the above-identified Examiner's Action is a final Action, and if the above-identified application will be abandoned without further action by applicants, applicants file a Notice of Appeal to the Board of Appeals and Interferences appealing the final rejection of the claims in the above-identified Examiner's Action. Please charge deposit account 09-0468 any fee necessary to enter such Notice of Appeal.

In the event that this amendment does not result in allowance of all such claims, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone interview at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

MPEP 713.01 states in part as follows:

Where the response to a first complete action includes a request for an interview or a telephone consultation to be initiated by the examiner, ... the examiner, as soon as he or she has considered the effect of the response, should grant such request if it appears that the interview or consultation would result in expediting the case to a final action.

Respectfully submitted,



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